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Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties Community Health Assessment Completed

The Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership and Eau Claire Healthy Communities released community health assessments for both Chippewa and Eau Claire counties this week. The assessment represents the culmination of a 12-month collaborative effort between local health departments, healthcare providers, and non-profit organizations. The community health assessments engaged the community at various points and summarize the findings of the community health survey conducted last fall as well as 12 community meetings held earlier this spring.

During the public meetings held earlier this year, community members prioritized top health issues for Chippewa and Eau Claire counties. Both counties identified mental health and alcohol misuse as top health priorities. Substance use and obesity were also identified as priority areas for Chippewa and Eau Claire counties, respectively.

"Community support throughout this process was critical for a thorough assessment, and we are excited that so many community members are committed to improving health," said Audrey Boerner, Community Health Assessment Project Manager. "These are complex health issues, but we are committed to working with our community to address these priority areas. This assessment is just the first step in developing tools we can use to make our communities healthier and safer places to live."

The Chippewa County assessment is available at www.chippewahealth.org. The Eau Claire County assessment is available at www.echealthycommunities.org.

The health assessment for both counties was completed jointly by a coalition including the Chippewa County Department of Public Health, Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership, Eau Claire City-County Health Department, Eau Claire Healthy Communities, Marshfield Clinic, Mayo Clinic Health System, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital and United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley. These partners are continuing to explore possibilities for future work together to improve community health.

Are you interested in getting involved in health initiatives in your community? Feel free to contact the Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership or Eau Claire Healthy Communities to learn more:

Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership (715) 717-7647 info@chippewahealth.org

Eau Claire Healthy Communities Co-chairs (715) 839-2869 healthycommunities@co.eau-claire.wi.us